

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE February 10, 2021

### Council Members Present

Mary Durham, Council Chair  
Hunter Adkins  
Kimberly Blackmon  
Ronnie Browning  
Paul Cardarella  
Gladys Cortez  
Kristen Cox  
Andrew Crim  
Mary Faithfull, DRTX  
Jennifer Hines, TWC  
Scott McAvoy  
Meagan Orsag, Texas A&M  
CDD  
Randell Resneder  
Holly Riley, HHSC/Older  
Americans Act  
Robert Schier III  
Eric Shahid  
Toby Summers  
Keith Swink, TEA  
Lora Taylor  
John Thomas  
Kim Torres  
Dana Williamson,

### HHSC/Medicaid

Audrey Young, DSHS  
Nina Zuna, TCDS

### Council Members Absent

Maverick Crawford  
Michael Peace  
Molly Spratt

### Guests Present

Anne Marie Blacketer  
Judy Blake  
Kyle Cox  
David Dodson  
Joey Gidseg  
Olga Guerra  
Rebecca Japko  
Sandra Magaña  
Laura Marquez  
Caitlin Mende  
Jason Sabo  
Kami Shahid

### Regional Coordinators Present

Morgan Bradley  
Rosa Guel  
Skyler Mueller  
Anthony Ross  
Shelby Vaughn  
Richard Williams

### Staff Present

Beth Stalvey, Executive Director  
Martha Cantu  
Scott Daigle  
Robert Garcia  
Lauren Gerken  
Sabrina Gonzalez  
Genessee Klemm  
Le Lien  
Linda Logan  
Evan Marczynski  
Sylvia Medina  
Richard Rendon  
Mary Rochford  
Koren Vogel  
Rosalin Willis

### **Call to Order**

Pursuant to the Governor's March 16, 2020 suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Committee of the Whole of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities met virtually using the Zoom platform on Wednesday, February 10, 2021. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. A quorum was present.

#### **1. Introductions**

Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

#### **2. Public Comments**

No public comments were offered.

3. **Public Policy Advocacy Strategies: Jason Sabo**

Public Policy Director Scott Daigle introduced Jason Sabo, founder of Frontera Strategies, who provided guidance to Council members for legislative advocacy. Sabo discussed the challenges of advocating during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as issues of importance before the legislature. He recommended strategies such as mobilizing grassroots efforts, meeting with legislative staff in local offices, submitting written comments, and targeting small group visits to highly relevant offices. Sabo's key advice to making real change involved working together, building credible research, messaging from all perspectives, and educating the media and the public on the issues.

4. **TCDD Public Policy Priorities for 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature**

Prior to the meeting, Daigle and Sabo worked with Council members Kimberly Blackmon, Eric Shahid, and Kim Torres on their personal testimony and how their stories relate to the TCDD Public Policy Priorities. Blackmon, Shahid, and Torres presented their statements to the Council and Sabo emphasized strategic messages in each statement. Public Policy Committee Chair Lora Taylor also offered her approach for effective advocacy.

5. **Review of Public Input on FY 2022 – FY 2026 State Plan Goals and Objectives**

Executive Director Beth Stalvey discussed the public input received for the published FY 2022 – FY 2026 State Plan Goals and Objectives. She reminded members that this was posted for comment from November 16, 2020 – January 8, 2021. TCDD received 26 responses that were primarily in support of the goals and objectives. Other comments noted the difficulty of obtaining leadership and advocacy training for individuals who had a difference of opinion with the mission of the training entity, and partnerships with organizations of diverse cultures. Members reviewed the comments for each goal and objective and offered suggested language that changes integration to inclusion as well as adding language that promotes trainings on school safety to Goal 2, Objective 2. The recommended changes are not significant to re-post for public comment and could be approved by the Council for submission to the federal authorities.

**MOTION:** To recommend Council approval of the FY 2022 – FY 2026 State Plan Goals and Objectives as presented with revisions as noted.

**MADE BY:** Randell Resneder

**SECOND:** Ronnie Browning

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Adjourn

Council Chair Durham adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 12:12 PM.

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Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council      Date